

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior listings of claims in the application.

Listing Of Claims:

Claims 1-6 (canceled):

Claim 7 (currently amended): A method of controlling a printing apparatus which needs to periodically execute maintenance operation after activation, said printing apparatus having a timer counting means with a power abnormal flag inside said counting means, operated by power supplied from a battery, for counting time on the basis of an internal time, where the timer is operated by power supplied from a local battery and configured to set an internal flag when a power failure of the local battery has occurred, the method comprising:

setting ~~[[a]]~~ the internal flag in a register of the timer when a ~~battery abnormality~~ a power failure has occurred in ~~said counting means~~ the local battery of the timer;

~~determining~~ reading the internal flag to determine whether the ~~battery abnormality~~ power failure has occurred based on the status of the internal flag set in said flag setting the internal flag step;

~~refreshing~~ setting an updated time as the internal time ~~with a predetermined time~~ when the ~~battery abnormality~~ power failure has occurred based on the result from said determining step where the updated time reflects correction from an error caused by the power failure of the local battery;

designating execution of a maintenance operation on the basis of the internal time set in said setting a new time step; and

clearing the flag after ~~said refreshing step~~ setting the new time at said setting a new time step.

Claim 8 (canceled):

Claim 9 (new) : The method according to claim 7, wherein said setting a new time step sets the internal time based on time information transmitted from a host device.

Claim 10 (new): The method according to claim 7, wherein said setting a new time step sets the internal time based on an elapsed time from the timer.

Claim 11 (new): The method according to claim 9, wherein the host device is a personal computer.

Claim 12 (new): The method according to claim 9, wherein the host device is either one of a PDA, a cellular phone or a digital camera.